The addition to this, Sports Authority of India (SAI) also has the National Coaching Scheme under which coaches are posted at District Coaching Centres where they impart training to local youth in the disciplines identified by the State Sports Authorities.

Besides, the SAI is already implementing the following scheme which help talented sports persons at the district level to improve their skills and performance:—

1. National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC)

2. Army Boys Sports Companies (ABSC)

3. SAI Training Centres (STC)

4. Special Area Games (SAG)

5. Centre of Excellence (COE)

Under these schemes, Sub-junior and junior sports persons are selected on the basis of merit and inducted in the NSTC and ABSC schemes. Junior sports persons are inducted in the STC, SAG and Center of Excellence Scheme. The SAG scheme is especially on inducting and nurturing talent form rural, tribal and coastal regions of the country. All trainees are provided with boarding/ lodging, training facilities, sports equipment, kit, medical cover, competition exposure along with scientific training under expert coaches and scientific backup.

**Developing sports infrastructure**

2888. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of funds allotted during the Ninth Five Year Plan for development of sports;

(b) whether Government have any plan of incentives for development of sports infrastructure in States, like Manipur where more national and international sports awardees are produced; and

(c) whether Government have any contemplation for issuing free rail tickets to the National sports participants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKIRISHNAN): (a) The total amount of funds allotted during the Ninth Five Year Plan for development of sports is Rs. 472.61 Crores.

(b) Under the existing scheme of "Grant for Creation of Sports Infrastructure" Government gives grants for sports infrastructure to various States/UTs including Manipur on receipt of viable proposals for development of sports infrastructure. In this regard, the State of Manipur has been sanctioned a grant of Rs. 67 lakhs during the last four years for development of sports infrastructure.

(c) No, Sir.

**Pak Cricket Board threats not to play against India**

2889. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question No. 3939, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 20th April, 2001 and state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the threats given by the Pakistani Cricket Board Chairman that his country would not play against India in any tournament anywhere in the world, if India did not play triangular Sharjah series; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI P. RADHAKIRISHNAN): (a) and (b) After consideration all aspects, the Government has taken a decision that under the prevailing circumstances it would be inappropriate for Indian Cricket team to participate in a two-nation tournament between India and Pakistan at present. The Govenment has also taken a decision not to play any matches at non-regular venues at least for a period of three years. India will thus continue to play Pakistan in multilateral tournaments at regular venues.

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